MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1980

Iran Domestic Affairs

Defense Budget Increase--AFP, citing the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, reported that the Iranian Government has asked the Majlis for an increase of $600 million in the defense budget to cover the callup of reservists and an extra $40 million to pay for the Interior Ministry's paramilitary police.

New Banknotes--In a statement reported by Tehran radio, Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari announced that beginning 6 December, the Central Bank will distribute new 500-rial banknotes to ease the currency shortage and that the Melli Bank has been given permission to issue promissory banknotes in denominations of 10,000 rials that can be used like any other banknotes. The statement said the Central Bank has worked "round the clock" to solve the currency shortage and that the next delivery of banknotes will arrive in Iran sometime "next week."

Iran Foreign Affairs

According to Tehran radio, Central Bank Governor Nobari met with the Soviet ambassador to Iran on 3 December. The Soviet ambassador offered to buy oil and natural gas from Iran "to facilitate a monetary exchange," but the Central Bank governor criticized the Soviet Union's unwillingness to pay Iran's asking price for natural gas. The radio added that the Soviet envoy hopes for further talks on this matter as well as talk on future investments. For his part, Nobari asked the Soviet official to facilitate monetary clearance procedures and to allow Iran access to a transit route to Europe, which was approved. Earlier reports indicated intense concern among Iranian officials over monetary matters, including liquidity problems related to the financing of the war and hasty withdrawals of money from the banks by Iranian people concerned about the war.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported "hand-to-hand fighting" in the western part of Susangerd, previously proclaimed secure by Iranian forces. The radio said three Iraqi helicopters penetrated across the Abadan-Mahshahr highway and that one was downed and the others driven back by Iranian antiaircraft fire. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iranian Air Force planes raided As-Sulaymaniyah, Maysan and Irbil and hit targets in Panjwin and Mosul. The communique claimed Iraqi ground fire shot down one plane.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

AFP reported on 4 December that "diplomatic sources" in Amman, citing eyewitnesses, said Syrian heavy artillery units and personnel carriers withdrew from the Jordanian border during the previous night, heading for Damascus. SPA reported previously a statement by Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had promised to withdraw his forces from the border with Jordan. Commenting on this pledge, Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah told PETRA-JNA that Jordan will wait until "we see the last Syrian soldier withdrawing" to normal positions to believe it.

According to Damascus radio, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said "there is no doubt" Jordan "has learned the necessary lessons" from the military buildup and other steps. The minister added that "we are now convinced" Jordan "will take into consideration all that has happened in future action."

The Syrian newspaper TISHRIN, in a commentary reported by Damascus radio, continued to attack King Husayn's regime for resurrecting the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and expressing willingness to cooperate with the new U.S. administration. In another commentary on 5 December, reported by Damascus radio, TISHRIN said that if the Syrian military moves make Jordan consider various facts and "learn lessons for the future, then what happened was necessary and beneficial" but it remains to be seen just how much Jordan has learned. The newspaper added that "Syria cannot overlook or remain silent" about Jordanian involvement in conspiracies against it or its disavowal of the Palestinian issue. AL-AKHBAR, reviewed by Amman radio, said that Jordan wants Arab relations to be "strong and firm" and that Syria and Jordan need to be partners to face Israel. AL-AKHBAR welcomed "the good offices" of Saudi Arabia in its attempts to "remove the tension on the border as a result of the massive Syrian buildup."

Syria

Damascus radio reported the arrival of Libyan Secretary of Foreign Affairs 'Ali as-Salam at-Turayki on 4 December with a message to President al-Asad from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan official met with the Syrian president, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and head of the Libyan Relations Office 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, the radio said. In a statement at the airport before his departure, also carried by Damascus radio, At-Turayki said the message he delivered from the Libyan leader dealt with the proposed union between the two countries and the latest developments in the international situation. Calling his talks in Damascus "positive and constructive," the Libyan secretary of foreign affairs said the two countries' leaders will meet soon "to achieve unity."

Israel

Tel Aviv IDF radio reported that the high court of justice has recommended that the mayors of Hebron and Halhul, Fahd al-Qawasimah and Muhammad Milhim, should be given a period of probation before they are expelled. The radio said the high court urged that the "political echelon reconsider the date for the expulsion because of views heard during the court hearing and the possibility that the deportation would only aggravate matters." Commenting on the decision, the Voice of Palestine radio said observers "expect the popular uprising to escalate" in the wake of the court's decision.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali discussed further steps toward normalization of relations between their two countries in a meeting in Paris on 4 December. In remarks after the meeting reported by AFP, Dr Ghali characterized the talks as "extremely positive" and said the Israeli foreign minister "perfectly comprehended" the need for "a new political atmosphere and a climate of confidence" to convince the Palestinians to participate in the autonomy talks. The Egyptian official said the tripartite talks among Israel, Egypt and the United States will be held in abeyance until President-elect Ronald Reagan names a new U.S. representative to the talks. Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir said the two sides agreed on ways to improve relations while difficulties still hindering normalization would be discussed at future meetings. He added that he is convinced of the "necessity of accelerating the autonomy negotiations." The two officials disagreed over the EC proposal for a Middle East settlement but the Egyptian minister of state said that Europe "could play a major role" in influencing public opinion in the United States and Israel in favor of a general peace settlement.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 236

5 December 1980

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Khanabad District Rebels 'Crushed' by Government forces C 1
AFP: Students Organize To Aid Rebels C 1

BANGLADESH

Iranian Delegation Calls on Foreign Minister D 1
Government Leaders Affirm Solidarity With Palestine D 1

INDIA

Gandhi Sends Message to Brezhnev Prior to His Visit E 1
Desai Says USSR Behind Gandhi's Pakistani War Scare E 1
Rao Denies Desai Claim E 1
Rao Discusses Territorial Disputes With PRC, Pakistan E 2
Delhi Claims PRC Missile Launchers Installed in Pakistan E 2
Joint Communique on Indonesian President's Visit E 2
Briefs: Exports to USSR E 4

PAKISTAN

Saudi Minister Visits Afghan Refugee Camp F 1
Commodity Exchange Agreement Signed With Poland F 1

IRAN

CBS Interviews Rafsanjani on Hostages, War I 1
Rafsanjani Describes Tour of Arab States [ETTELA'AT 30 Nov] I 2
Rafsanjani Holds Talks With DPRK Ambassador I 6
Khomeyni Receives Education Minister 4 Dec I 6
Central Bank Governor Meets With Soviet Ambassador I 7
Nobari Announcement on Banknote Distribution I 7
Raja'i Addresses Governors General Conference I 8
Nabavi: 1 Million Homeless as a Result of War I 8
Kashani Addresses Pakistani Muslims on Gulf War I 9
Speech in Islamabad I 9
Speech in Lahore I 9
Iraqis Attack Iranian Students in India I 10
Iraqi Revolutionaries Support Libyan Policies I 10
Iranians in Qatar Contribute to War Effort I 10
Domestic, Foreign Newsmen Visit Kermanshah I 10
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 327 I 11
Airborne Forces Carry Out Attack on Iraqis I 12
Guards Corps Clashes With Armed Assailants I 12
Iraqis Launch Air, Artillery Attacks on Ahvaz I 13
Air Raid I 13
Artillery Bombardment I 13
Fighting Continues in Abadan, Khuninshahr I 13
Iraqi Losses on Susangerd, Abadan Fronts I 13
Hand-to-Hand Fighting Reported in Susangerd 3 Dec I 14
Dub-e Herdan Front in Iranian Hands I 14

Summary of Kurdish Radio 3-4 Dec Programming I 14
NVOI on International, Domestic Issues I 14
30 Nov Commentaries I 14
2 Dec Commentaries I 15
3 Dec Commentaries I 16
4 Dec Commentaries I 17

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Denies Offer of Naval Base to U.S. P 1

KHANABAD DISTRICT REBELS 'CRUSHED' BY GOVERNMENT FORCES

LD041530 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] A number of counterrevolutionaries under the leadership of Sayed Akbar and his sons, who for some time now have been disrupting the peaceful life of Shush village in the district of Khanabad, were recently crushed by the security forces and party activists of that district.

A Khanabad district source said that a number of American, Chinese and Pakistani arms, together with some ammunition and propaganda leaflets, were taken from these destroyers--the servants of American imperialism and international reaction.

AFP: STUDENTS ORGANIZE TO AID REBELS

BK041139 Hong Kong AFP in English 0759 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] New Delhi, 4 Dec (AFP)--Afghan school girl students have set up an extensive underground organisation in Kabul for distributing night-letters and aiding rebels in various ways and a network of forgery experts has sprang up forging passports for fleeing Afghans and official identity cards for the rebels.

A sister and brother, the former a member of the underground organisation and the latter an expert in forgery, who claimed to have forged 24 passports and numerous identity cards in recent weeks, arrived in the Indian capital early this week and gave details of their activities to newsmen here today. They fled Afghanistan on the pretext of medical treatment abroad.

All the schools in Kabul have been turned into communist propaganda centres by the government and every student is required to attend a 45-minute "political class" daily, Miss Mustabshira said.

"They teach us about Lenin, socialism, how to become a good communist and obviously the greatness of the Soviet Union," 21-year-old Mustabshira said. She was a student of Aishai Durrani High School, in Karte-Char, downtown Kabul, before she was expelled for her part in the April-June anti-Soviet student demonstrations in Kabul.

The girls frequent cinema halls and restaurants for distributing the night letters. "We go in groups, leave the "sabnamas" (night letters) in the cinema toilets and they are collected by Afghans," she said. "There are other groups who are in charge of slipping the "sabnamas" in residences... I was in the cinema teams," she said.

The Afghan Government has appointed man to keep watch on every Afghan house in the residential complex for Russians in Kabul. "The head of every Afghan family is required to report to the government man on visitors to his house," she said.

Miss Mustabshira showed to newsmen strange patches on her right cheek and in the lower portion of her right-eye and said that the deformation was caused by gases used by the Afghans and the Soviets to break student demonstrators.

Twenty-seven-year-old Enaitatullah, a former student in the Kabul Teachers Training College, said hundreds of Afghans were fleeing the country with forged passports. "It is extremely difficult to get an official passport," he said. "I needed one passport and I saw the men there forging one ... I learned the art from them and forged one passport for myself in December last year and visited India." He said that the identity cards were helping the rebels in various ways including infiltration in the police, militia and government.

IRANIAN DELEGATION CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

BK021313 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 80

[Text] Bangladesh, in cooperation with other Islamic countries, will continue its efforts for an early and honorable solution of the war between Iran and Iraq. This was stated by Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq while the leader of the three-member Iranian parlimentary team, Hajjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Emami Kashani, called on him in Dacca yesterday.

He told the Iranian delegation that the war (?has hurt) not only Iran and Iraq but also the entire Muslim world. He assured the delegation that Bangladesh attaches great importance to the close ties between the two countries and will do everything possible to bring the war to an early end.

GOVERNMENT LEADERS AFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

BK291557 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 80

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has reiterated Bangladesh's total support for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the need for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In a message to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the president said any comprehensive settlement in the area must take into account the question of Palestine, which is the hard core of Middle East problems. He said as a member of the Jerusalem Committee and also the Coordination Committee on Jerusalem at the United Nations, Bangladesh's stand regarding complete solidarity with their Arab and Palestinian brethren is well known.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq also sent a similiar message to head of the political division of the PLO Faruq Qaddumi on the occasion.

GANDHI SENDS MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV PRIOR TO HIS VISIT

BK050916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said that Soviet President Brezhnev's visit to India next week will provide another opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern of the two countries. In a message to Soviet President Brezhnev, Mrs Gandhi said relations between the two countries are traditionally close and the cooperation in various fields has been growing. She said the government and the people of India and she personally are looking forward to his visit. The message was in reply to President Brezhnev's greetings to Mrs Gandhi sent on her birthday a few days ago.

DESAI SAYS USSR BEHIND GANDHI'S PAKISTANI WAR SCARE

BK041411 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] New Delhi, 4 Dec (AFP)--Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai today disclosed that the Soviets had once asked him (when he was prime minister) to raise a bogey of Pakistan's threat of war with India. He refused to act.

Addressing a public meeting at the boat club lawns, opposite Parliament Building, Mr Desai repeated his charge that Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi was attempting to divert people's attention from worsening situation in country with her "alarming and baseless" statements about Pakistan's threat of war with this country. "I won't be surprised if Russia is inciting her to do so because they had once asked me also to raise a similar bogey but failed with me," he said.

Mr Desai, 85, who led the short-lived Janata Party government, charged Mrs Gandhi with misleading the people about the "imaginary threat" to the country. Pakistan, he said, would never want a war with India, for it could not match the might of India and would be destroyed. "Is our country so weak as to be afraid of Pakistan?" He asked and added rather "we should want Pakistan to be strong and not weak."

Rao Denies Desai Claim

BK050935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has emphatically refuted the allegations made by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai that the Soviet Union had been instigating India to attack Pakistan. He was making a statement in the Rajya Sabha today after members from all sides condemned Desai's allegation made by him at a public meeting yesterday.

Narasimha Rao said that he had thoroughly checked up the records and he would categorically say that there is nothing whatsoever on record to support Morarji Desai's claim that the Soviet Union had asked India to teach a lesson to Pakistan by launching an attack when Desai was the prime minister. He said Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi had never made any speech suggesting that a war between India and Pakistan is imminent as alleged by Desai. He said in fact the government had been trying to do its best to promote and improve its relations with Pakistan.

Raising the issue as special mention, Bhupesh Gupta, Communist Party of India, strongly condemned Morarji Desai's allegations describing them as politically motivated. He said that Desai has levelled these allegations on the eve of the Soviet president's visit to India in order to sabotage the talks between Brezhnev and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi. He said it is an irresponsible statement and unworthy of a man of his stature.

Members belonging to all parties condemned the allegations made by Desai. Even a Janata Party member expressed his unhappiness over the matter and described Desai's statement as wrong.

RAO DISCUSSES TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH PRC, PAKISTAN

BK051025 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] China is illegally occupying about 14,500 square miles of Indian territory in the Ladakh region. Giving this information in the upper house of Parliament today, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said India had been seeking the return of this territory by China through peaceful means by direct bilateral negotiations based on [word indistinct]

Rao said the area of 2,000 square miles in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was illegally ceded by Pakistan to China under the so-called Sino-Pakistan agreement of 1963. Rao said India has been taking necessary action to resolve this question of illegal occupation of Indian territory by Pakistan peacefully through bilateral negotiations as provided in the Simla agreement.

DELHI CLAIMS PRC MISSILE LAUNCHERS INSTALLED IN PAKISTAN

BK050940 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Agency reports say China has installed missile launchers in the Gilgit area of Pakistan. These are capable of launching missiles with nuclear warheads which can hit targets in the range of up to 1,500 kilometers.

The reports say the two Chinese rifle battalions and two infantry battalions, which took part in military exercises in Pakistan in October, have been moved to Gilgit valley.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON INDONESIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

BK041555 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1529 GMT 4 Dec 80

["India-Indonesia Joint Communique"--ISI headline]

[Text] At the invitation of the President of India Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President Suharto of the Republic of Indonesia paid a state visit to India from December 1 to 4, 1980. The president of the Republic of Indonesia was accompanied by Madame Suharto. The visit took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere and helped to generate closer ties between India and Indonesia.

The president of the Republic of Indonesia and the prime minister of India held wide-ranging discussions on the international and regional issues. They also reviewed bilateral relations. The talks between President Suharto and Indira Gandhi were marked by mutual cordiality and friendliness.

In these talks the president of Indonesia was assisted by: Doctor Widjojo Nitisastro, minister-coordinator for economic, financial and industrial affairs and concurrently chairman of the National Development Planning Board; Doctor Mochtar Kusummatmadja, minister of foreign affairs; Sudharmono, minister-state secretary, Shamsul Bachri, ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in India; and other senior officials. The prime minister of India was assisted by: P.V. Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs; Pranab Mukherjee, minister of commerce; Vikram Mahajan, minister of state for energy; S.K. Bhutani, ambassador of India in Jakarta; and other senior officials.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India expressed their grave concern at the deterioration in the world situation, particularly in the Asian region. They also took note of the recent intensification of great power military presence in the Indian Ocean. They agreed on the urgency to resolve peacefully the existing disputes and differences.

Recalling their countries' role as founders of the nonaligned movement, the president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India reaffirmed their faith in the policy of nonalignment and expressed the hope that by keeping itself true to its original principles and through the unity of the member countries the movement could successfully evolve a common strategy to strengthen international peace and security and to build a more just and equitable international order. Towards this end both countries agreed to work together for the success of the forthcoming conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers to be held in New Delhi in February 1981.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India noted with deep concern the escalating confrontation of big powers in their proximity and the increasing military presence and rivalry in the Indian Ocean. They were of the view that the suspended U.S.-Soviet bilateral talks on the arms limitation in the Indian Ocean should be resumed. They attached importance to the forthcoming UN conference on the Indian Ocean to be held in Sri Lanka in 1981 and urged that all states should endeavour to implement the UN declaration of 1971 to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India reviewed the current situation in Southeast Asia. The president of Indonesia gave the prime minister of India his assessment of the situation and the efforts being made by the ASEAN countries towards a peaceful solution to the problems of Kampuchea.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India were agreed on the need for a dialogue between the countries of the region to create the necessary conditions in which the sovereignty, integrity and independent personality of all countries of the region could be fully safeguarded. The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India were further agreed that in keeping with their support for the concept of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia, all the countries would endeavour to keep the region free from big powers and outside intervention and interference.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India reaffirmed that the Palestinian question was at the core of the west Asia problem and unless it was resolved satisfactorily with the PLO as an equal partner, no negotiations towards a settlement could succeed. They agreed that the Palestinian people should be restored their inalienable rights to their homeland and to a nation state of their own. They called for the immediate withdrawal by Israel from all Arab territories occupied by it since June 1967.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India viewed with concern the recent developments in Southwest Asia and expressed the hope that steps would be taken to avoid any big power confrontation developing in the area. They expressed their distress that a conflict between the two nonaligned countries--Iran and Iraq--should have occurred and expressed the hope that the problems would be resolved amicably. With regard to the situation in Afghanistan they expressed their full support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonaligned status of Afghanistan and other countries of the region. They urged the concerned parties to work towards a settlement which would ensure that the Afghan people would determine their own destiny free from foreign interference and intervention.

They noted that the present world economic situation has adversely affected the developing countries. They stressed the dangers of protectionism and urged the need for effective and urgent steps to improve the world economic climate and the establishment of a new international economic order. They emphasized the growing significance of strengthening economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. They expressed the hope that a new round of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development would be launched soon.

The president of Indonesia and the prime minister of India noted with satisfaction that cooperation in the economic and industrial spheres between the two countries was proceeding apace. They expressed their determination to further enlarge the areas of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. It was agreed that officials and experts of the two countries would meet to identify further areas of cooperation.

The president of Indonesia expressed his deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation during their stay in India. The president of Indonesia extended invitations to the president and the prime minister of India to visit Indonesia. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO USSR--India is to export cosmetics, detergents and chemicals worth 2.17 billion rupees to the Soviet Union. Contracts to this effect were signed in Bombay and New Delhi. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 80 BK]

SAUDI MINISTER VISITS AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMP

BK051055 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Saudi Arabian Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said Saudi Arabia considers the Afghanistan problem as its own problem and wants some early solution to it.

Addressing Afghan refugees in a tent village near Peshawar this morning, he said King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and the entire Saudi nation are fully conscious of the difficulties faced by the Afghan refugees. He said they fully share their problems, as they are bound together by the strong bonds of Islam the Saudi Arabian Government is doing everything possible for the solution of the Afghan problem as early as possible.

Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz emphasized that the Afghanistan problem can affect the whole world, and so it is the duty not only of the Islamic states but, of the entire world community to pay immediate attention to it. He said that in accordance with Islamic teachings, all Muslim states desire to live in peace and harmony with other countries and do not want any interference in their domestic affairs. Muslims want to protect their rights and want the Afghan people to be given the right to live in peace and dignity in their homeland.

He praised the relief being provided by Pakistan to the Afghan refugees and said this Pakistani spirit is appreciated not only by the Saudi Arabian Government and people but the entire world. He said it is the duty of every Muslim to help his fellow brethren in distress. He said the Saudi Arabian Government is aware of the difficulties experienced in extending aid to Afghan refugees and it will provide every possible assistance.

COMMODITY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

BK041652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Pakistan and Poland signed a commodity exchange agreement in Islamabad today providing for a $40-million trade both ways. This agreement, which is the fourth of the type between the two countries, is for a period of one year.

Pakistan's exports include mainly cotton, cotton yarn, cotton textiles, readymade garments, hosiery goods, carpets, sports goods, handicrafts and leather goods. Poland will supply urea, insecticides, transformers, grid station parts, tools and workship equipment.

Leader of the Polish team Stanislawski signed the agreement on behalf of his country. He also met the federal commerce secretary and discussed ways to expand trade cooperation between the two countries. The Polish delegation also had a meeting with the secretary of the Federal Ministry of Production.

CBS INTERVIEWS RAFSANJANI ON HOSTAGES, WAR

LD042005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1652 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau dispatch, Hojjat ol-Elsam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, in an interview on 30 November with the U.S. CBS radio-television network, replied to questions put to him by the CBS correspondent about the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, the issue of the hostages and other problems.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani in this interview, while exposing indirect U.S. intervention in instigating the Iraqi regime to wage war against Iran and in instructing the reactionary heads of Arab countries to cooperate with and assist the Iraqi regime, said: At any rate, because of its deep animosity to and all-round extensive clash with the Islamic revolution, it will not achieve anything but isolation in the region.

In reply to a question put to him by the CBS correspondent as to whether the hostages will be released, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: You address this question to the Americans, since we have secured all the conditions and if the United States restores to us all our rights, we too will keep our promise.

The correspondent asked: U.S. Secretary of State Muskie, announced: We have accepted Iran's conditions. Then why are you not releasing the hostages?

Mr Hashemi Rafaanjani replied: We have not said that by merely accepting the conditions we would release them. Rather, it is in the circumstance of carrying out and implementing the conditions that the hostages will be released.

The CBS network correspondent asked: Where does the ambiguous point lie here and what is it that prevents the release of the hostages?

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in reply to this question stated: The ambiguity lies with the United States, which does not wish to restore our rights. The United States is our enemy and endeavors by all the means at its disposal to deal us a blow. But it is now helpless here as we have already spoken our minds to them. The United States should unfreeze the assets which we have in the United States. It should take back the false claims which they have made against us. It should cancel the economic blockade which it has imposed on us and it should return the shah's wealth.

In reply to another question by the correspondent: Why do you not directly speak to the Americans with regard to this issue which is connected with Iran? Hojjat ol-Elsam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani said: The reason for not having a direct dialogue with the American stems from our people's intense dislike of the United States.

Here the U.S. correspondent said: For the American people--and not the U.S. Government--it is extremely difficult to comprehend Iran's position.

Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani said: I accept that we have not been able to introduce ourselves properly in the United States, but really we are not against the American people and I think that in the future the American people can get together with the Iranian people. However, the U.S. Government has not allowed the American people to know us and it has made adverse propaganda against us.

In reply to another question put to him by the correspondent, who asked for a date concerning a solution of the hostage problem, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani said: If the United States so desires, this problem could be solved within a week.

Also regarding a forcast of the outcome of the imposed war, the U.S. correspondent asked a few questions, to which Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said: The war situation at present is good and we are dominating all the war theatres. Saddam is at an impasse and cannot retreat, since the Iraqi people will ask him. What have you given for all these casualities? On the other hand, should he continue the war, he will lose a great deal of his forces.

RAFSANJANI DESCRIBES TOUR OF ARAB STATES

LD050925 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Nov 80 p 11

[Unattributed report of press conference by Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani; time and place not given]

[Excerpts] Following his return from a trip which lasted over one week, Speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly and member of the Supreme Defense Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, who headed a delegation to the friendly and fraternal countries of Algeria, Libya, Syria and Lebanon, took part in a press and radio-television conference yesterday evening attended by a large group of newsmen representing local and foreign media and replied to a number of questions concerning the reasons for his trip, the aims, results and benefits accruing from the journey, developments regarding the hostages issue and dozens of other questions.

The following is the full account of the press conference given by the Majlis speaker, who has charge of the legislative arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The question was asked: What was the attitude of the governments and nations whose countries you visited? What sort of publicity were we getting there, and how did these nations and their leaders view the leader of the Islamic revolution?

The Iranian Majlis speaker replied: First, the attitude of the nations I visited toward the Islamic revolution of Iran was one of great affection. They retain the hope that in the future it will be the means of salvation for the whole area, and they will not accept any delay in the revolution as a whole. Their governments, the leaders of Algeria, Libya and Syria, regarded Iran's Islamic revolution as the salvation of the area from a nightmare from which they thought no early escape could be made. They said that nothing but this revolution could have smashed the base of imperialism, broken the back of Israel and shaken America in this region; Iran had done all this. They thought that every sort of support would be forthcoming to make the revolution a permanent one, and they were prepared to cooperate with us in every way, tactically and strategically.

The Palestinian Issue

The question was asked: In general, what issues did you discuss with the leaders of these governments, and did you also discuss the Palestine issue?

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: Many matters were discussed. For example, we agreed that the struggle against Israel should take place at a more serious and decisive level, that the Iran-Iraq war had been the result of Iraqi aggression, that the imperialists started this war and that the Iraqis were the servants of America; we also agreed with most of them that only the fall of Saddam could bring an end to the war and, among many other matters, we agreed that the Iraqi nation opposed this war and that the nation had to be saved. We agreed that forces should be conserved for the fateful battle against Israel. We agreed on many other matters.

Against Israel

The question was asked: In your meetings with the leaders of these countries, was there a basis for concluding political and military facts, and is our stance against Israel equal to that of the Arab countries.

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: We did not discuss economic or military pacts directly, but rather cooperation embracing all cultural, military and propaganda aspects, the exchange of news and radio facilities, economics and the expansion of projects. Our position was the same as all the countries I visited except Lebanon, owing to its special circumstances, that is to say, none of them imagined that the area could remain secure and undisturbed while the Government of Israel, which they believed to be an intruder and usurper, exists. However, the presence of a section of Jewish people, who have come there and wish to live there, is acceptable. I think that our views on Israel coincide.

A question was asked on the general future of foreign policy in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which should serve to strengthen the foundations of the Islamic revolution.

Lack of Activity on the Part of the Foreign Ministry

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: Our foreign policy is somewhat in need of clarification and elucidation. On the last night before I returned to Iran, I had a long meeting with the Syrian foreign minister. He thought that, since the shah had left Iran, everything in the country had been at a standstill, but he was amazed when I explained how much the Revolution Council had accomplished in roadbuilding, pipelaying, power-line installations, water supply, the holy war for reconstruction, the purging of the civil service and the army, the creation of the [guards] corps, the services rendered by the komitehs, in oil services and the reduction of oil production and export, adjustment of wages, nationalization of factories and so forth, and he said: "If you had told the people about one-tenth of these measures, they whould think even more than they do of the Islamic revolution. Our people do not think that the Islamic revolution has accomplished much, but they think that it has a good excuse because it has had other preoccupations, and they simply hope that it will carry out these measures in the future."

In addition, they thought that we had created a shell around ourselves and that we had no intention of breaking out of this, while the true explanation is that we are in fact ready to cooperate in the area; this is essential, yet up to now our Foreign Ministry and our embassies have done nothing, and there is so much that they have to accomplish.

On the activation of our foreign policy and the dissemination of information on the dimensions of the revolution to all countries, the question was asked: What should we do, and in principle, will the holding of further meetings of this sort be to our advantage?

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: It is essential that we hold further meetings, and one of our past mistakes was that nothing was done at high level; yet when those in high office visit these countries, they have a bigger audience and more people to listen to their speeches. However, as regards how work may be accomplished, we must expand our embassies; at present we have one charge d'affaires in Algeria and one in Libya, and they have only been at post for a week. In Syria we have a spineless embassy, and in Lebanon we have only a charge d'affaires. The same goes for other places. We should have press, military and economic attaches there and we should engage in cultural work, especially in Africa which is an ocean that has attracted the covetous eyes of the superpowers; Africa is at the center of their activities.

Having regard to the fact that 70-80 percent of African people are Muslim, and that they influence many non-African countries, the door to service is wide open, and it is up to our embassies and Foreign Ministry to enable us to do something by expanding and strengthening our embassies. Here and now I advise our dear youth of Iran, who have facilities and power at their disposal, to prepare themselves to undertake responsibilities outside Iran.

Hashemi Rafsanjani was questioned as follows regarding the failure of the conference of Arab leaders in the Jordanian capital: What was the reaction of the rejection front countries to the failure?

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: They were very glad. During the first few days that we were there, these countries were concerned lest the reactionary majority adopt illogical resolutions concerning the Iran-Iraq war or the Palestinian issue, and then say that it was the Arabs who had done this; not attending the conference entailed uncertainty that the decisions would go against the PLO. Fortunately, they managed to unify the six votes and they did not attend the conference, which was thus rendered more or less meaningless and inconclusive. As you know, Yasir 'Arafat and his group had done a 40-hour air tour to try to dissuade the Arab countries from participating in the conference, which he proposed should be delayed by 2 weeks to 2 months. One of the Arab leaders told us that, when it was suggested to the Arab countries that there should be a delay of 2 months, Iraqi supporters said that Saddam would not last 2 months and that the conference must be convened sooner. On the occasions when we accused others of working on behalf of Saddam, we were told: "It is not a question of Saddam's winning but of his survival." This then was the aim of the leaders at the conference, and when these countries did not attend, the conference was rendered meaningless and one-sided, although they thought that they had won.

Pan-Arabism

The question was asked: In your view, does the rift created at the conference constitute a basis for the continuation of the struggle in the region against Zionism, and specifically, have not such standards as pan-Arabism been lost? Further, has the Islamic revolution of Iran not created fundamental developments in the methods by which the struggle is carried out?

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: Yes, the Islamic revolution of Iran has brought about basic developments in the area and has assured the region's people of the victory of Islam and the people's revolutionary spirit. Fortunately, people are less interested in supporting Arabism or sectarianism; they support Islam or justice-seeking ideals. However, pan-Arabism does still exist as a factor in the region.

On the subject of the Iran-Iraq war, Hashemi Rafsanjani was asked: How did these countries view the Iraqi attack on Iran and what was their evaluation as to the outcome of the war?

He replied: In the countries I visited, particularly in Lebanon, which is the cradle of free-thinking and independent thought, the people's analysis as I saw it, particularly among the Arab intellectuals, was that they accepted the Islamic revolution of Iran as an anti-imperialist and anti-American movement, and they believed that movements opposed to the Islamic revolution of Iran were imperialist and antipopular. That is the position in Arab countries.

Reports that we received from the Palestinian leaders said that the people of such countries as Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia were upset that their governments opposed Iran and the Islamic revolution, and they regarded this as reactionary.

The following question was asked concerning the Soviet stance toward the Iran-Iraq war: Was the stance toward the war and their dispatch of aid mentioned at the meetings?

Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Before I set out on the journey I head from Mr Bani-Sadr (and this was confirmed) that we had been officially informed that the Soviet Union had told the Iraqi ambassador: "We regard your war against Iran as benefiting imperialism. The Iranian movement is anti-imperialist, and we cannot help you to fight against it."

The Libyan and Syrian leaders happened to tell the us the same thing, and it became more or less evident that the Soviet Union is not prepared to aid Iraq.

Against America

Hahsemi Rafsanjani was questioned concerning the stance taken by the progressive Arab countries against America's position in the Iran war, particularly regarding the dispatch of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

He replied: As you know, Algeria, Syria and Libya were previously engaged in a struggle against America, and their position was that America was at war with us. South Yemen also adopted a similar position, with their claim going even beyond ours. They said that North Yemen possessed a large quantity of Soviet arms, which they had sold and delivered to Iraq, that France was regularly supplying Iraq on directives from America, that Iraq had formerly given Jordan $1 billion to develop the port of El-Aqabah, and in principle this was the scheme which had been drawn up with America, and which involved the preparation of the port of El-Aqabah to receive ships during the war; they were also saying that the reactionary oil-producing countries of the region had undertaken to defray Iraq's costs in the war and that it was really America which was fighting us. Many other examples were cited indicating that America is really running the war, albeit indirectly.

Aims of the Trip

Our correspondent's first question concerned the aims of the trip: One of your aims was the formulation of common policies and positions with the progressive Muslim countries of the region. To what extent were you successful?

Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: On this trip, our success went beyond what we expected to achieve. We now have a policy which is in line with theirs, and we must work to bring certain aspects of this policy even more into line.

The ETTELA'AT parliamentary correspondent asked this second question, which concerned the formulation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's long-term foreign policy: In your Friday interview yesterday, you said: "While on the trip, we realized that basically we did not possess a foreign policy." Having regard to the extensive facilities which the paydari group is able to provide for the Islamic revolution, what plans have you to make up for inadequacies and shortcomings?

Hashemi Rafsanjani said: The basic plan was formulated there. By expanding the embassy staffs and evolving cultural and economic cooperation and the exchange of information, we can develop and coordinate our foreign policy in the area.

A correspondent asked: The PLO did not attend the conference of Arab leaders. Did you seek the views of the Palestinian leaders?

Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Yes. We had a long talk with the PLO leaders at Mr 'Arafat's office and we discussed their position on the war, this conference, and future problems, and we thanked them. As regards the Iran-Iraq war, their view is really that they support Iran, but the particular circumstances prevailing in the region have prevented them from expressing an opinion. All the second-rank Palestinian leaders support Iran in their speeches and interviews.

One correspondent asked: Did any of the countries mentioned offer you arms assistance?

Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Some of them had previously made such offers, and we told them that at present we were fighting the war ourselves but that, if there were fresh developments in the war, they should be ready to draw nearer to us for subsequent stages of the fighting.

The question was asked: What stage have developments regarding the hostages reached?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Majlis has stated its views on the hostages and the government must ratify the Majlis decision. There is nothing more for us to do; we are faced with a propaganda war by America. America must answer to its nation; if it wants the hostages to be freed, it must give us what we demand, which is not excessive but merely our right. America's delay is imperialist policy, and it has a plan afoot; we are not going to expend efforts since, sooner or later, they will give us what we want. Of course, we would like America to come to its senses and give us our just demands, and the hostages to be freed.

Acceptance By America

The Question was asked: If there are differing views over the acceptance of Iran's conditions by America, what authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide whether the conditions are being met?

Hashemi Rafsanjani said: There was a commission at work here which acted jointly for the Governments of Algeria and Iran and which has prepared a report which I have read today. There were ambiguities in the American reply and clarification of the obscure points has been sought. These matters are apparently being dealt with by Minister of State Behzad Nabavi.

RAFSANJANI HOLDS TALKS WITH DPRK AMBASSADOR

LD041848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the DPRK ambassador conferred today with Speaker of the Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani. The ambassador reported to the Majlis speaker on the holding of the DPRK people's congress and its resolutions in support of Iran's stance as well as its Islamic revolution. He also handed over messages from the president of the People's Assembly and the DPRK president to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Hoslemi Rafsanjani. They also discussed the region's developments and the war between Iran and the Iraqi regime.

Following the 1-hour meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would expand as much as possible and that he would be able to take up the invitation extended by the president of the DPRK People's Assembly to visit that country.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES EDUCATION MINISTER 4 DEC

CF041810 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, received Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr Mohammad Bahonar, minister of education and member of the cultural revolution's command, this morning. During this meeting the education minister reported to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the cultural revolution's command and on the Education Ministry's activities in all fields.

The imam offered the minister his directives and wise instructions.

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LD042046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1952 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports that 'Ali Reza Nobari, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, yesterday met and conferred with the Soviet ambassador to Tehran. In this meeting, which was attended by the head of the Soviet commerce delegation to Iran, economic and commercial issues pertaining to both countries were discussed. The Soviet ambassador to Iran expressed his country's willingness to purchase oil and gas from Iran in order to facilitate a monetary exchange between the two countries. In return, the stand of the Soviet Union in not accepting the suggested price of gas by Iran was criticized by Mr Nobari.

According to this report, the Soviet ambassador expressed the hope for future discussions in this regard. Also, mutual investment plans, especially the development of the steel mill, industry and monetary clearance were discussed. In this connection the governor of the Central Bank of Iran asked the Soviet ambassador to facilitate the preliminaries.

In this meeting 'Ali Reza Nobari asked the Soviet ambassador to provide the necessary facilities for Iran to gain access to the transit road to Europe via the Soviet Union, which was approved.

NOBARI ANNOUNCEMENT ON BANKNOTE DISTRIBUTION

LD050724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] The following statement has been released to the Central News Bureau by the governor of the Central Bank of Iran:

In His exalted name. The zealous nation of Islam and the personnel of the Islamic revolution of Iran are aware that as a result of the war begun by the Ba'thist Government of Iraq certain problems have been created in the distribution of money throughout the country. As a result, a number of bank branches were temporarily faced with a shortage of banknotes.

The Central Bank of Iran, which according to law is responsible for guarding the value of the currency of the Islamic Republic of Iran and which is required to strengthen the foundations of the independent, Islamic economic growth of the country, began a round the clock effort from the time this problem was recognized in order to secure the well being of all compatriots. By mobilizing all the facilities at its disposal throughout the country and with the cooperation and assistance of the dear compatriots, and with the grace of God, the Central Bank of Iran has succeeded in preventing the problem from worsening. It gives us great pleasure to inform the dear compatriots that the problem is nearly resolved and, God willing, within the next week the next delivery of banknotes of the Islamic Republic of Iran will arrive in the country.

Therefore, in order to prevent any possible shortage and to speed up bank procedures, especially in the battle zones or in cities which, because of defense problems or possible [word indistinct] might not be able to receive the banknotes they need from Tehran, the following simultaneous operations will be implemented by the Central Bank as of Saturday, 6 December:

1. The distribution of new 500-rial banknotes with the picture of the shrine of the eighth imam on the front and the phrase "Islamic Republic of Iran" on the left. These notes, together with the old 500-rial notes will remain in circulation and, God willing, at an opportune moment steps will be taken to withdraw the old notes from circulation.

2. Permission to issue promissory notes is granted to the Melli Bank of Iran. These notes, which have been prepared by the latest printing methods, are drawn from 10,000 rials and are green in color. On the right hand side the phrase "Islamic Republic" is printed like other banknotes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on the top the phrase "promissory note of the Melli Bank of Iran" is written. This note can be spent and used like other banknotes issued by the Melli Bank of Iran throughout the country.

The payment of the amount of these notes is guaranteed by the Melli Bank of Iran and all bank organizations and state institutions are required to accept them. Our dear compatriots can use them to meet their different needs. The Central Bank of Iran, once again emphasizing the fact that all deposits made by the people are guaranteed, assures the Muslim people of Iran that it will do all in its power to carry out its duties as the organizer of the monetary and credit system of the country so that the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will remain on the path of independence, growth and fruition and so that the supreme society of monotheism, enjoying a fruitful and exalted economy, will be established, God willing.

[Signed] 'Ali Reza Nobari, 4 December

RAJA'I ADDRESSES GOVERNORS GENERAL CONFERENCE

LD041154 Tehran Domestic SErvice in Persian 1037 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] A conference of the governors general of the country was convened this morning with the participation of Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister; Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, minister of interior; and the supervisors of the police of the Islamic Republic and the Red Crescent.

In this session, the problems and the difficulties of the provinces of the country were discussed by the governors general. Then, in a speech the prime minister asked all the government officials to speed up their activities with greater assistance and cooperation and to refrain as much as possible from paperwork. In the continuation of this session, discussions were held about some urgent projects.

NABAVI: 1 MILLION HOMELESS AS RESULT OF WAR

LD041130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1044 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, in a lunchtime press conference today answered correspondents' questions regarding government affairs and various issues.

The correspondent of the Central News Bureau reports that at this press conference the state minister described the activities of the Cabinet in connection with the rehabilitation of war victims and also economic affairs, adding: According to received reports, approximately 1 million of our compatriots have become homeless in the war zones as a result of the war imposed on us by the Iraqi regime; they must be accommodated in camps. Behzad Nabavi added: Many of these compatriots have been settled to date in camps, which have been set up mostly in warm regions, with the cooperation of the reconstruction crusade and the Red Crescent. The government has adopted numerous measures for the welfare of these victims of war.

Regarding economic issues, the state minister said: We have tried to reduce government expenditure as much as possible; there has been fair distribution of commodities to this end, which has been effective in reducing the expenditure to some extent.

KASHANI ADDRESSES PAKISTANI MUSLIMS ON GULF WAR

Speecn in Islamabad

JN040940 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani said that the Muslims must preserve their unity so as to be able to face their common enemy. In a speech he gave at a meeting in Islamabad, he added that the enemies of Islam are trying to exploit the transient differences among the Muslims to weaken them. He said the war imposed by Iraq is an example of such tactics.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani added: Saddam Husayn is trying to create the impression that this is a war between Shi'ites and Sunnis and between Arabs and Iranians, but the Muslims have not been taken in by these un-Islamic statements and have condemned the Iraqi aggression.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Muslim Pakistanis for their support for Iran and their aid for Iran, which was sent in the form of medical supplies.

(Iftikhar Husayn) also spoke at this meeting on behalf of the citizens and ulemas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, expressing his full support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and condemning the Iraqi aggression against Iran.

PARS reports that two children sang a song entitled "Allahu Akbar, Khomeyni (?Rahdar)" at this meeting, which was attended by several scholars and Muslim intellectuals, political leaders, students and Pakistani officials. Imam Khomeyni stood out in the song as a great leader of the Islamic nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani is currently making a tour of several Islamic states at the head of an Iranian delegation.

Speech in Lahore

GF050915 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Selam Emami Kashani, the imam's representative and Majlis deputy, arrived in Lahore yesterday on another leg of his visit to Pakistan in his current tour of Muslim countries. After its arrival the Iranian delegation visited the college of divinity at (Al-Muntazar) University.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani addressed the students. Speaking at a press conference, he explained the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the war imposed by Iraq on Iran.

Speaking at another meeting attended by students, religious scholars and Pakistani notables, Emami Kashani stressed the need for unity among the various Islamic sects. Referring to the aggression by the infidel Iraqi Ba'thists against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The infidel forces of Saddam's traitorous and aggressor regime will be defeated very soon, and the Iraqi people will establish an Islamic Republic at the earliest opportunity. At the end of the meeting the Shi'ite and Sunni brothers held evening prayers together.

IRAQIS ATTACK IRANIAN STUDENTS IN INDIA

JN041000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] PARS says in a report from New Delhi that the Iraqi terrorists, who are disguised in diplomatic garb, have attacked a group of Iranian students who were on their way home in New Delhi.

Witnesses say that the attackers were riding in three cars carrying plates with diplomatic numbers and belonging to the Iraqi Embassy in India. The armed terrorists were forced to flee from the place of the incident when the citizens intervened. The Iranian students have given the indian police the details of the incident. Witnesses add that the Iraqi ambassador's car, which carries the plate CDA, was also used in the attack. The latest reports say that none of the Iranian students were harmed.

Such practices, whose likes we have witnessed before, only reflect the folly of the Iraqi regime and its impending breakdown as a result of its successive defeats in the battlefronts by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRAQI REVOLUTIONARIES SUPPORT LIBYAN POLICIES

JN050604 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Our correspondent says in a report that the Iraqi revolutionary forces sent a message to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which they expressed their support and backing for the Libyan stands on the imperialist and reactionary elements. These forces also denounced the expansionist and colonialist stands of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, describing these as unjust to the Iraqi people and hostile to the liberal elements and the front for steadfastness and confrontation.

IRANIANS IN QATAR CONTRIBUTE TO WAR EFFORT

GF050912 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Honest Muslim residents in Qatar are continuing to collect contributions and extend material and moral aid to their brothers and sisters in Iranian cities living in a state of war. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Doha has received 85,000 Qatari riyals from Iranian workers residing in Qatar to purchase medicine for the wounded. They also declared their readiness to go to the battlefronts to defend the Iranian Islamic revolution led by its great leader, Imam Khomeyni.

DOMESTIC, FOREIGN NEWSMEN VISIT KERMANSHAH

LD041154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] According to the reports we have received, domestic and foreign correspondents on the last day of their visit to the western region of the country this morning inspected some traces of the crimes and atrocities which have been inflicted by Iraqi mercenaries upon the city of Kermanshah. According to the report of the Central News Bureau, when the reporters were leaving their place of residence, hundreds of students who had gathered in front of their hotel and who carried photographs of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while chanting the slogans of "Death to America," "Death to Saddam" and shouting "This is a document on America's crime," asked foreign correspondents to take the message of their innocence to the ears of the superpowers.

Today, the reporters also visited the Rashidi School in Kermanshah, which became a target of air attacks by the mercenary Iraqi regime from 23 September 1980 till 22 October 1980. During this visit, the students of this school and the parents of the students who had been martyred in this incident unanimously shouted: "Death to America," "Death to Saddam," "This is a document on America's crime."

According to another report transmitted by PARS, during the visit of foreign reporters, in connection with the people's slogans which were mainly against the American Government, one of the correspondents asked one of the officials: You are fighting against the Iraqi regime, but your people's slogans are against America, what is the reason for this?

He answered: At the beginning of the war which was imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran, America put some AWACS aircraft at the disposal of Saudi Arabia and these AWACS aircraft are active at the moment. On the other hand, America gives financial assistance to Jordan, which has expressed its support for Iraq. Also, you remember the incident in Tabas. Finally, the support from the American Government for the deposed shah could be an appropriate answer to this question.

According to the same report, foreign reporters, at the end of their 3-day study of the effects of the crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, also visited the headquarters of the mobilization of the oppressed people of the west of the country.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 327

LD041844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Communique 327 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Islam's self-sacrificing heroes with their ceaseless efforts on all battlefronts--just as they have promised their God--are manfully and fearlessly assaulting the foes of Islam in order to [words indistinct]. Here are some of the praiseworthy activities of the defenders of the Islamic revolution during yesterday and today:

A. Today's operations:

1. At 1000 this morning the long-range artillery of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on and damaged Al-Faw's economic and vital installations.

2. At 1035 today the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran pounded the aggressive enemy's positions and trenches in the Abadan region using mortars, as a result of which an enemy ammunition tent exploded and two trenches of the Iraqi mercenaries were destroyed.

3. At 1100 today enemy forces in the (Ad-Dabib) region in southern Iraq and its environs were subjected to intense artillery bombardment by the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and suffered casualties.

4. The Islamic combatants' artillery deployed in Khuninshahr rained shells on enemy positions in Umm ar-Rasas and as a result some of Iraq's border guards were forced to retreat.

B. Yesterday's operations:

1. In the Abadan region the combatants of the ground force's aviation force, the Airborne Division, and the gendarmerie personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed several enemy trenches and a minefield and killed or wounded a number of mercenaries.

2. On the eastern bank of the Karkheh Kur River, as a result of attacks launched by our combatant patrol forces, between 10 and 15 enemy servicemen were killed.

3. As a result of operations by units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and thanks to continuing artillery operations by the ground forces in the Khuzestan region, 15 enemy tanks, 1 cannon, 3 military vehicles, 2 bulldozers, 1 armored personnel carrier, and 2 trenches with servicemen were destroyed and 20 enemies of the Islamic revolution were killed.

The same day Islam's conbatants on the southern front were able to scatter an enemy column of trucks and inflict heavy losses on the latter and to destroy with their artillery fire several enemy trenches, two observation trenches, one (?loader) and two vehicles. Our heroes also silenced the enemy's artillery and killed over 50 servicemen of the forces of blasphemy and wounded 8.

During these operations theee of our forces were martyred and five were wounded.

4. Exchanges of fire continued in Shur-e Shirin, (Kan-e Sakht), (Kanjan Cham), Malekshah and Salehabad and in Sumar and Afsharabad. Thanks to artillery fire from the army of Islam, two enemy tanks and two military vehicles were destroyed. At least 50 Iraqi mercenaries were killed. As a result of operations and continued firing against enemy units on all battlefronts, appreciable losses and casualties were inflicted on the aggressor forces.

The morale of enemy personnel on the eve of their defeat is extremely poor and the enemies of the revolution have lost their efficiency. Also, according to reports which we have received, the despicable and helpless commanders of Saddam's army have recently been frightened by Iraqi servicemen's insubordination to orders given by their commanders and by the servicemen's constant defections to the army of Islam and are now closely watching their behavior. According to reports we have received several Iraqi servicemen deployed in the vicinity of Al-Faw have faced firing squads because of their belief in Imam Khomeyni's leadership.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

AIRBORNE FORCES CARRY OUT ATTACK ON IRAQIS

LD042136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2058 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, our courageous airborne airmen in the course of a two-stage operation today at (Minak) heights and at the vicinity of Helaleh post, succeeded in destroying four tanks, two vehicles, one jeep and a number of enemy bunkers. As a result of these operations a number of Iraqi mercenaries were killed or wounded. No casualty figures are available yet. The same report adds that our airborne combatants, having completed their missions, returned to their bases with extremely high morale.

Moreover, on the basis of another report by the Central News Bureau, the airborne combatants raided the enemy forces on two sorties today, one at 0900 and the other at 1600, in Beyvaz village, situated on the western sector of the Karun River. No figures on the casualties suffered by the enemy are yet available up to the dispatch of this report at 1800.

GUARDS CORPS CLASHES WITH ARMED ASSAILANTS

LD051218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] An informed source in the Urumiyeh guards corps told PARS that the guards brothers stationed in the Mahabad region yesterday went to (Indirbash) and (Bingaleh) and a few other villages in order to carry out mopping-up operations and to rid the villages of arms.

According to this source, armed assailants in (Bangalem) village opened fire upon the guards brothers with 50-calibre guns, automatic MG-1's and MG-2's and other weapons. The guard brothers returned their fire. In this clash about 80 of the assailants were killed or wounded and the rest of them fled; it continued until 1430 yesterday. Two of the guard brothers were wounded, one of whom died while being taken to the hospital. The other one is receiving treatment at the Red Crescent hospital in Urumiyeh.

IRAQIS LAUNCH AIR, ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON AHVAZ

Air Raid

GF041745 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1531 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners, please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear is the red alert warning. An air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

[Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian repeats this announcement at 1555 and 1746 GMT on 4 December]

Artillery Bombardment

LD041738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Excerpt] A Central News Bureau report says that residential areas in Ahvaz came under sporadic fire between this morning and 1330 by enemy long-range artillery. A PARS report says that as a result of artillery fire by the enemy yesterday, one person was killed and seven were wounded in Ahvaz.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN ABADAN, KHUNINSHAHR

LD041826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] The latest report, dispatched by the PARS correspondent from Abadan tonight, states: This evening three helicopters belonging to the Iraqi mercenary army flew over our forces; but they were faced with antiaircraft fire. One of the helicopters was shot down along the Abadan-Mahshahr road and the other two escaped. The combatants of Islam on this front, consisting of the personnel of the mobilization headquarters, the Feda'iyan-e Eslam, valiant and combative army brothers, the Islamic revolution guards corps, and the other popular forces, in spite of enemy fire have excellent morale and [words indistinct].

Exchanges of fire were going on intensely on the Khuninshahr front until the time of this report this evening. One of the commanders of this front in an interview with PARS announced: Last night, as a result of the fire of the combatants of Islam, several trenches belonging to the Iraqi mercenaries were destroyed and a large number of the mercenaries were killed or wounded. Also, this morning some other Iraqi mercenaries on this front, who are based in the western part of the city, were killed by the fire of the combatants of Islam. According to this report, today the combatants of Islam had fire superiority on the whole front. Today the combatants based in the eastern part of Khuninshahr, with loudspeakers and giving [word indistinct] slogans in Arabic called on the Iraqi (?commanders) to surrender. [passage indistinct]

IRAQI LOSSES ON SUSANGERD, ABADAN FRONTS

LD041804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau correspondent, 21 tanks, 1 artillery piece, 1 personnel carrier and 8 enemy vehicles were destroyed on the Susangerd front yesterday. Moreover, 36 infidel troops were also killed or wounded. Susangerd came under heavy fire yesterday with the Islamic Republic's forces returning the fire.

Quoting the governor's office of Khuzestan, PARS reported that in the course of a coordinated operation by the guards and the Islamic Republic's courageous army on Fayaziyeh front in Abadan, 3 tanks, 3 munition vehicles and part of the enemy artillery were destroyed, with 30 misled Saddam soldiers having been killed or wounded.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING REPORTED IN SUSANGERD 3 DEC

LD041741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1648 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau correspondent who returned from Susangerd at 1315 today, the Iraqi mercenaries have brought Susangerd under artillery and mortar fire. The same report adds that our army brothers are returning the fire. There still are no details available of the casualties or losses inflicted on the enemy.

On the basis of reports by Central News Bureau and PARS correspondents, in the course of hand-to-hand fighting yesterday between the revolution guards and the Iraqi aggressors in the western sector of Susangerd, the guardsmen managed to destroy a number of individual enemy bunkers and kill 16 infidel soldiers.

DUB-E HERDAN FRONT IN IRANIAN HANDS

LD041810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Having contacted a reliable military source in Ahvaz, the PARS news agency has learned that fierce battles continued today on the Malihan and Ab-e Teymur front and that in complete coordination, the Islamic defenders and the airborne units, using artillery and units positioned in the frontline, crushed the Iraqi aggressors. No figures have been prepared yet of enemy casualties and losses. In the course of the battle, three Muslim fighters were martyred and five wounded.

According to the same military source, Dub-e Herdan front is at present in the hands of the Islamic revolution's defenders, who are protecting it quite well.

SUMMARY OF KURDISH RADIO 3-4 DEC PROGRAMMING

TA041523 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran at 1315 GMT, on 4 December carries news, anti-Khomeyni commentaries and talks, appeals to the Kurdish people, and the peshmerga program. On 3 December the radio carried a statement by the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan warning the inhabitants of the Sardasht region of an imminent attack by the forces of the "so-called Islamic Republic regime" and stressing that the party will do its utmost to safeguard the lives and property of the people of the region.

NVOI ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

30 Nov Commentaries

GF302030 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 30 November carried two commentaries.

The first commentary was entitled, "How To Safeguard the Victory of the Iranian Nation." The commentary said: Our people, to defend their territorial integrity and independence, are fighting with self-sacrifice in this imposed war. The war which is going on is a part of the Satanic U.S. policy to weaken Iran and the achievements of our people and moreover to overthrow the Islamic Republic and establish a U.S.-related regime. That is why our people are fighting U.S. imperialism.

There is no doubt that U.S. imperialism, in its plots, counts on the internal counter-revolution, the fifth column. In this crucial time in our country, the unity of word and action has special importance, but we should be careful that unity of word and action takes place between the right groups. It would be a mistake if we face this vital subject in a superficial way. One should with revolutionary awareness distinguish right from wrong, light from darkness and revolution from counterrevolution.

The postrevolution experience has taught us that a number of members of the former regime have changed face and are waiting to take action to overthrow the Islamic Republic. We must be alert.

Obviously, there is no place for these masked people in the united, democratic and anti-imperialism front. We should identify these elements and their plans before they can take action. Only with the unity of word and action of the true forces of the revolution and the followers of the imam's anti-imperialist line can one safeguard the future victories of the revolution.

The second commentary, entitled "Who Are They Who Have Isolated Iran and How?" said: From the first days of the aftermath of the revolution, Yazdi, Qotbzadeh, Entezam and company have been trying to reaffiliate our newly liberated country with U.S. imperialism and to deprive our nation and revolution from the comity of revolutionary nations and the universal progressive movements of the workers. In those days the outcry of these individuals was that by cutting the shackles of bloodthirsty U.S. imperialism and its allies, the Islamic Republic had become isolated. Weren't they the same persons who, contrary to the warning of the imam to our warring nation, talked of isolation instead of Iran's liberation? Instead of relying on the workers' liberating movements and progressive anti-imperialistic nationalistic regimes, they proffered the hand of friendship to notorious rulers--the allies of the United States like the regimes of Ziaul Haq, Qabus and the Saudis. We all remember how Qotbzadeh joined in the discussions of Carter's Islamic conference with representatives of the regimes of Ziaul Haq, Qabus and King Husayn.

The events that followed proved that the aim of these persons was not to reveal the bloodthirsty colonialism of the United States, the No 1 enemy of Iran, but to divert public attention from this real enemy of the nation. The paean of isolation is sung by the liberal bourgeoisie, these representatives of the great overlords, the capitalists who want to join the United States and its allies. The sequence of events unveils the fact that regimes like Ziaul Haq's, Qabus' and King Husayn's seek refuge in Islam. The difference between enemy and friend does not depend on being Muslim or non-Muslim. On the contrary, there are many revolutionary countries that are ready to offer brotherly assistance to our country vis-a-vis the conspiracies of U.S. imperialism.

2 Dec Commentaries

TA022048 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 2 December carried two commentaries:

The first commentary, entitled "The Strength of the Revolutionary Toilers Is a Guarantee of the Victory of the True Revolutionary Forces," said: The powerful and great force of revolutionary workers has justly been called the arms of the revolution of the Iranian nation. Despite all the difficulties and shortcomings inflicted by the dependent capitalists and bourgeois liberals, the Iranian toilers are defending the revolutionary gains. During the recent incidents, it has been revealed that all the plots and threats were carried out by suspicious elements and pseudoclergy followers of Carter's Islam and followers of Brzezinski inspired by the Qotbzadehs, who are trying to create discord among the followers of the imam's path, between the president and prime minister, between the Islamic Consultative Assembly and (?politicians) as well as among the organizations true to the imam's path and united with the revolution.

When all the efforts should be mobilized to unite the nation to defend the revolution against (?this imposed war), all these gentlemen support the alleged democratic freedoms, which are of course democratic freedoms for the continuation of plunder and the reestablishment of a monarchial regime without a monarch. The great power of aware and revolutionary toilers constitutes the support for the victory of a national, people's and anti-imperialist front with the participation of all the true revolutionary forces.

The second commentary, entitled: "A London Hero," said: Recently BBC radio has called Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh "the new hero of Iran," for his constant efforts to create (?discord) among the true revolutionary forces. It is evident from the tone of the London radio that the London masters of the liberal bourgeoisie wing, of which Qotbzadeh is a leader, are satisfied with the counterrevolutionary activities of such elements. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, whose affiliations with the U.S. CIA have become known throughout the world, with great impudence expresses his disatisfaction with the political transformations in our country after the victory of the revolution.

Qotbzadeh, after his release from prison, has once again renewed his (?hostile) activities. As we know, at the command of his master, especially under the actual sensitive conditions, he has turned his attention to the bazaar so that by dirtying the water he can fish to his advantage as well as to the advantage of those like him, such as the Amir Entezams, Yazdis and Chamrans. By taking into consideration the sensitive position of the bazaar, we are addressing the patriotic bazaaris to be awake and aware and not fall into the trap of these elements. Those who have had a (?hand) in the victory of the Iranian revolution should today be aware of the fact as to why elements such as Qotbzadeh who have thousands of visible and invisible links with world-devouring U.S. imperialism try to approach the bazaaris.

Our country today, due to the imposed war, is confronted with many difficulties; the group of liberal-bourgeois supporters of Brzezinski's line try by creating discord and by placing one force against another to add more problems to the existing ones.

As we know, the true representatives of the Tehran bazaaris met with Imam Khomeyni and declared their support for the imam and his people's and anti-imperialist line. Another group of bazaaris, in response to the overt and covert plots of the counter-revolutionaries, in some cases even resorted to closing the bazaar. Undoubtedly, the expression of support for the revolution and its gains is a must but under the actual conditions, resorting to any kind of demonstrations and actions in support of the revolution should take place while taking into consideration the sensitive conditions of wartime.

The official authorities of the Islamic Republic, too, should not cross their arms vis-a-vis the activities of suspicious elements such as Qotbzadeh whose connections with U.S. intelligence organizations have been (?revealed) by many documents and witnesses.

3 Dec Commentaries

TA031957 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 3 December carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled: "The Compromising Liberal-Bourgeois in Their True Features," stated that the imam of the nation has many times rightly called world-devouring America the number one enemy of the nation and the arch-Satan, and stressed that we will fight world-devouring America until the end of our lives. These remarks by the imam have been transformed into the current slogan of every patriot and free Iranian, especially following the war imposed on our nation. By reviewing the recent events of our homeland we can see to what degrading acts and condemned methods the desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism to Iran, the compromising liberal-bourgeois and the masked and unmasked agents and elements of the United States have resorted in order to save the great master and to divert public opinion from the danger of the number one enemy of the Iranian nation, the arch-Satan--acts and deeds which are tantamount to betraying the revolution and its gains and the existence of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Many of the liberal-bourgeois gentlemen, like Mr Bazargan, are themselves capitalists affiliated with Western monopolies, and a number of them, like the Qotbzadehs, the Yazdis and the Chamrans, are agents. These days the liberals and the desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism are displaying their true features and are following a policy in whose inconsistency with the imam's popular and anti-imperialist policy there is not the slightest doubt. This situation cannot but arouse the concern of our homeland's people who have rightly posed the question: What is the logic of some officials for supporting the Qotbzadehs and the Yazdis? The free people of Iran and the true forces of our homeland demand a revolutionary attitude toward the representatives and mouthpieces of the compromising liberal-bourgeois and the agents and mercenaries of U.S. imperialism, and will support with the utmost power any measure taken by the government in this connection.

The second commentary, entitled "Washington and the War Imposed on Our Country," said the war imposed on our country according to the plan of the United States and by the hands of its agents, has taken the form of a war of attrition. The damages and losses for our country resulting from this imposed war are increasing daily. The imposed war on our homeland is in accordance with the specific aims of U.S. imperialism, and is a pretext for the executors of Washington's militaristic policy to sieze the oil riches of the countries of the Persian Gulf region and to escalate its military presence in this region. Those who, above all, are benefiting from this war are solely U.S. imperialism and its allies. They were awaiting such an event for a long time, so that under the pretext of preserving their oil interests in the Persian Gulf region they would interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of this area.

The events of recent days confirm the fact that Washington is ready to resort to military operations in the Persian Gulf and is attempting to also draw a number of NATO member countries into this adventurism. The interventionist activities of the United States are contrary to the principles of the UN Charter. However, it should be explicitly stated that it is not the war imposed on our country that has led America to concentrate the greatest part of its military and naval forces in the Persian Gulf; rather, it is the smell of oil and the intent to gain control of oil that has led America to such military adventures. The Pentagon and the United States' NATO allies have concentrated more than 60 of their warships in the Arabian Sea. The Pentagon has put the Persian Gulf under seige through a network of military bases. We all know that the traitor Qabus has placed his territory under the disposal of the United States for the establishment of a military base at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. The Saudi Arabian regime has also allowed hundreds of U.S. military personnel into that country. As-Sadat, this traitor to the interests of the Arabs and the enemy of the popular and Islamic revolution of the Iranian nation, has placed a number of his military bases at the disposal of the Pentagon for the stationing of U.S. military units from the Rapid Deployment Force.

The nations of the world and all progressive forces resolutely demand the withdrawal of the naval forces of the United States and its allies from the Persian Gulf, the liquidation of U.S. war bases in Oman, Kenya and Somalia and of its military springboards in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and an end to the adventurist activities of the Pentagon and of the American interventionists in the internal affairs of the countries of our region.

4 Dec Commentaries

TA042003 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 4 December carried two commentaries.

The first commentary entitled "Chamran Is Waiting To Receive Which Title?" reported that during a recent interview Mr Chamran claimed that we are not at war with Iraq, rather we are at war with the United States and the Soviet Union. He also claimed that allegedly the Soviet Union is coordinating with the United States, whether directly or indirectly. This claim of Dr Chamran's which emanates from the West's propaganda arsenal is not new to our homeland's people. "It is not entirely accidental that the Chamrans and the Qotbzadehs and other liberal-bourgeois elements attack the friends and allies of the Iranian revolution, especially the Soviet Union, at every opportunity contrary to the interests of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. They strive to strain relations between our country and the Soviet Union on the basis of false and biased accusations and statements."

Our homeland's people have observed and continue to observe the Soviet Union's support and backing for the Iranian revolution. Nevertheless, certain individuals, like the Qotbzadehs and the Chamrans, continue their futile attempts to place the Soviet Union and the United States in the same category. Although no one in our country believes such nonsense any longer, one should not and cannot overlook the fact that such claims are being made by persons who still hold sensitive positions, and this fact has aroused the concern of our homeland's public. Qotbzadeh or Chamran, or similar individuals, do not lose any opportunity to level accusations and slanders at the true friends, the natural allies and genuine supporters of the Iranian revolution in the world. This is part of the general plan of the compromising liberal-bourgeois to deprive revolutionary Iran of the support and backing of its true friends in the international arena and to isolate it in the face of the plots of U.S. imperialism and its allies. As we are aware Sadeq Qotbzadeh has received the title of the new hero of Iran from his London masters for his subversive activities. Now one must wait and see which title his Western friends will bestow on Mr Chamran for his subversive activities.

The second commentary, entitled "The Escalation of U.S. War Preparations in Our Region," said it is more than two months now that the war imposed on our country has continued. This war, imposed by U.S. imperialism and its agents in the region, has inflicted enormous human and material losses on both Iran and Iraq. U.S. imperialism is attempting to exploit this imposed war to preserve its strategic interests in the Persian Gulf, against the revolution and the revolutionary gains of our homeland and even against the Muslim nation of Iraq. The intensification of U.S. military activities and preparations in the Persian Gulf region is confirmation of this claim.

They are not concealing the fact in Washington that the United States itself has taken over the role of gendarme in this oil-rich region, so that under the pretext of preserving its so-called vital interests it would crush by military force the anti-imperialist struggles of the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. The Pentagon has dispatched approximately one third of its naval force and a considerable part of its Rapid Deployment Force toward the coastal borders of the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. Part of the United State's Rapid Deployment Force and war material have been transferred to U.S. war bases in Egypt, Oman, Somalia and Kenya. The principle roles for implementing U.S. aggressions in the Persian Gulf have been delegated to U.S. puppets in the Near East, namely the traitor As-Sadat and the CIA lackey Qabus.

The escalation of U.S. war preparations in the Persian Gulf region have been condemned by all the world's peace-loving forces, and U.S. efforts to play the role of gendarme in this region have met with the resolute confrontation of the Near and Middle East nations.

SRI LANKA DENIES OFFER OF NAVAL BASE TO U.S.

BK261644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 26 Nov 80

[Text] Colombo, Nov 26 (AFP)--Sri Lanka Government today denied local and foreign press reports that it had offered the harbour at Trincomalee in the eastern coast to the United States to be used as a military base.

Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed told Parliament that the reports are baseless. Speaking during the discussion on the money voted for his ministry in the budget for 1981, Mr Hameed said Sri Lanka was committed to non-alignment and there was no change in the country's foreign policy. He said Sri Lanka's foreign image was never so good as today and there was a fund of goodwill for this country throughout the world.

Reports that Trincomalee, one of the finest natural harbours in the world, is to be made a U.S. military base were published locally in the opposition political press particularly in the organs of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and those of the communist party. Before Sri Lanka gained independence in in 1948, Trincomalee was a British base and played a prominent role for the allied cause during World War II.